

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	The Zvenichevo - Simitli Road	DATE DISTR.	30 May 1955	
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL

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1. The road starts in Zvenichevo (N42-12, E24-15) where it crosses a single-track railway line at the southern edge of town.
2. The first eight kilometers of the Zvenichevo - Simitli road has the following characteristics:
 - a. Width, five meters;
 - b. Surface, crushed stone and earth; in good condition as far as Bratanitsa (N42-10, E24-13);
 - c. Shoulder, one meter, both sides; flush; earth;
 - d. Straight and level; Bratanitsa village at 2.5-4 kilometers; and
 - e. Flat cultivated fields on both sides of road.
3. Eight to 11 kilometers (Vetren Dol; N42-09, E24-09):
 - a. Width, five meters;
 - b. Surface, crushed stone and earth; bumpy;
 - c. Shoulder, one meter, both sides; flush; earth; and
 - d. Lattice steel girder bridge across Cherpinska river; length: 30 meters; 3-span, on masonry piers and abutments.
4. 11 to 26 kilometers:
 - a. Width: 3-4 meters;
 - b. Surface: crushed stone and earth; in fair condition;
 - c. Road follows the line of the Cherpinska river and the narrow gauge railway to Simitli, crossing and recrossing river nine times and finishing on the left side; all eight of the bridges are identical single span lattice girders (length 12-15 meters); passing bays are located every 200-300 meters along this stretch of the road; and
 - d. Narrow gorge; road is right on the river bank over most of this section, but is well buttressed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#").

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5. 26 to 40 kilometers:

- a. Width: four meters;
- b. Surface: crushed stone and earth; in fair condition; some ruts and holes;
- c. Shoulder: one meter, both sides; flush; earth;
- d. Road turns south away from river and climbs steadily in a series of hairpin curves, to a height of 2,400 feet at 34 kilometers. From this point it descends into the valley of the Metnitsa river, levelling out at 35 kilometers. 36 to 40 kilometers, road is straight and level with flat fields on both sides; Simitli railway line is immediately to the right of road for most of the way;
- e. 26-36 kilometers: hilly country; no cover; vehicles can leave road at some points. 36-40 kilometers: wide valley; flat fields; and
- f. Snow probable in winter.

6. 40 to 42 kilometers (Velingrad; N42-01, E24-00):

- a. Width: eight meters;
- b. Surface: paved; and
- c. Road enters Velingrad across Metnitsa river via 3-span concrete bridge (length: 35 meters), and a second bridge (length: 20 meters), type unknown, in center of town.

7. 42 to 66 kilometers:

- a. Width: three to four meters;
- b. Surface: earth; in bad condition; deep ruts and crumbling in some places;
- c. Shoulder: one meter, both sides; intermittent and not always flush;
- d. Narrow road winding steadily upwards, except between 62 and 64 kilometers, (where it descends slightly) and reaching height of 4500 feet at 66 kilometers; many sharp curves and hairpin turns;
- e. 42-56 kilometers: narrow wooded valley; impossible to leave road; 56-66 kilometers: open hilly country; pasture and pine woods alternating; vehicles can leave road at few points; and
- f. Heavy snow probable in winter; not suitable for heavy vehicles.

8. 66 to 79 kilometers:

- a. Width: three to four meters;
- b. Surface: earth; in bad condition; deep ruts and crumbling in some places;
- c. Shoulder: 0-1 meter, both sides;
- d. Road descending towards Yakoruda; numerous S-turns and hairpin turns; 72 kilometers: Small railway bridge above road; road crosses to left of Simitli railroad line; 75 kilometers: Road crosses to right of railway via level crossing; 77 kilometers: Double-span deck-type concrete bridge (length: 50 meters) on masonry piers;
- e. Mountainous country with occasional patches of cover; impossible to leave road except at one or two points; and
- f. Not suitable for heavy vehicles.

9. 79 to 80 kilometers (Yakoruda; N42-02, E23-40):

- a. Width: four to five meters;
- b. Surface: Earth; badly rutted; and
- c. Shoulder: one meter, both sides; flush.

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10. 80 to 110 kilometers:
 - a. Width: four meters;
 - b. Surface: earth; badly rutted;
 - c. Shoulder: one meter, both sides; flush;
 - d. Narrow, undulating road; fairly level as far as 103 kilometers and crossing and recrossing the railway line and river by various small bridges; and
 - e. 80-103 kilometers: valley of Mesta river, widening after 85 kilometers with cultivated fields on both sides; little cover; 103-110 kilometers: hilly country; no cover.
11. 110 to 111 kilometers (Banya; N41-53, E23-32):
 - a. Width: five meters;
 - b. Surface: earth; in bad condition; and
 - c. Shoulder: one meter, both sides; flush.
12. 111 to 115 kilometers:
 - a. Width: four meters;
 - b. Surface: crushed stone and earth; in fair condition;
 - c. Shoulder: one meter, both sides; flush;
 - d. Curving, undulating road; no sharp curves; and
 - e. Hilly, no cover.
13. 115 to 118 kilometers (Razlog)
 - a. Width: eight meters;
 - b. Surface: paved; and
 - c. Road crosses to left of railway line by a level crossing in center of town.
14. 118 to 154 kilometers (Simitli; N41-53, E23-07):
 - a. Width: five meters;
 - b. Surface: crushed stone and earth; good condition;
 - c. Shoulder: one meter, both sides; flush;
 - d. Curving, undulating road; in excellent condition; no steep hills or sharp curves; small wooden bridges between 118 and 125 kilometers; bridge over Struma river at entrance to Simitli (through-type steel lattice girder; four-span; length: 120 meters);
 - e. Valleys of the Rableve and Elovitsa rivers; Rila range to right and Pirin range to left; some cover; vehicles can leave road at some points; and
 - f. Suitable for all vehicles.

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